AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A sustained-release composition for oral administration of a drug, comprising the drug, a carrier for sustained release of the drug and a gel hydration accelerator, said composition being delivered to the gastrointestinal tract where the drug is released at a constant rate following zero order kinetics over a period of 24 hours or more, wherein the weight ratio of the drug : the carrier for sustained release of the drug : the gel hydration accelerator is in the range of 1 : 3 to 30: 0.1 to 15; the carrier is a mixture of sodium alginate and xanthan gum having a weight ratio of 1: 1 to 10; and the gel hydration accelerator is a mixture of hydroxypropyl methylcellulose and propylene glycol alginate having a weight ratio of 1:0.05 to 20.

2 - 4 (Canceled).

5. (Previously amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the carrier further comprises locust bean gum.

6. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 5, wherein the weight ratio of sodium alginate : xanthan gum : locust bean gum is in the range of 1: 0.2 to 10: 0.1 to 5.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Currently amended): The composition of claim 1, wherein the drug is selected from the group consisting of antihypertensive drugs, drugs for cardiovascular diseases, drugs for hyperlipemia, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, drugs for asthma, anti-~~diabete~~ diabetes drugs, calmative, antibiotics, antispasmodic steroids and a mixture thereof.

9. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the drug is selected from the group consisting of nifedipine, isradipine, lovastatin and glipizide.

10. (Previously presented) A sustained-release composition for oral administration of a drug selected from the group consisting of nifedipine, isradipine, lovastatin and glipizide, comprising the drug, a mixture of sodium alginate and xanthan gum, and a mixture of hydroxypropyl methylcellulose and propylene glycol alginate, wherein the weight ratio of the drug : the mixture of sodium alginate and xanthan gum : the mixture of hydroxypropyl methylcellulose and propylene glycol alginate is in the range of 1 :3 to 30: 0.1 to 15; sodium alginate and xanthan gum have a weight ratio of 1:0.1 to 10; and hydroxypropyl methylcellulose and propylene glycol alginate have a weight ratio of 1: 0.05 to 20.